

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. This Amendment should be entered under Rule 116 as it places the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-23 remain pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 8 has been cancelled.

Applicants note that claims 16-20 and 22-23 are indicated as allowable. Applicants appreciatively note that claims 8, 10 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bang (US Pat. 6,618,214) in view of Nicholas (US Pat. 6,002,374) and further in view of Packard et al. (US 2005/0151367).

For the purposes of expediting the prosecution of this application, and not because Applicants agree with the rejection, claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1 and accordingly this rejection has been overcome. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bang in view of Nicholas and further in view of Adjeleian (US Pat. 6,596,374) and Packard et al. Because claim 21 is dependent on an amended claim, this claim should be allowable. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth M. Berner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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